

Message Text

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11

ACTION SY-05

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USSS-00 CIAE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00 /019 W

----- 084367

R 092134Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 245

INFO AMEMBASSY PANAMA

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DEPT. FOR A/SY/FO; PANAMA FOR RSS

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ASEC

SUBJECT: INCIDENTS AT DAO RESIDENCES

1. ON JULY 6, 1976, LCDR. GERALD T. BESCHTA, DAO, RELATED THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION TO THE RSO: "UPON RETURNING TO MY HOME AT 0200 HRS. ON JULY 4 FROM THE BICENTENNIAL DINNER/DANCE AT THE SHERATON SAN CRISTOBAL, MY DAUGHTER BONNY (AGE 14), HER FRIEND CLAUDIA NUNEZ AND OUR DOG WERE NOT IN THE HOUSE. I MADE PHONE CALLS TO THE MARINE GUARD AT THE EMBASSY, CLAUDIA NUNEZ' MOTHER AND CAPTAIN SWITZER'S RESIDENCE ASKING IF MY DAUGHTER HAD CALLED OF THE ABOVE PLACES STATING THAT SHE HAD ANY PROBLEMS. ALL INDICATED NO. IMMEDIATELY AFTER COMPLETING THE THIRD CALL, MY DAUGHTER, HER FRIEND, AND OUR DOG RETURNED TO THE HOUSE. BONNY SAID SHE HAD RECEIVED A PHONE CALL AT APPROXIMATELY 0030 FROM WHAT SEEMED TO BE A YOUNG MAN STATING "VAMOS A MATARTE" (WE ARE GOING TO KILL YOU). SHE IMMEDIATELY HUNG UP THE PHONE, WHICH STARTED TO RING AGAIN SOME FIVE OR TEN MINUTES LATER. WITHOUT ANSWERING, SHE AND HER FRIEND TOOK THE DOG AND WENT NEXT DOOR TO THE NEIGHBOR'S HOUSE AND THEY STAYED UNTIL MY WIFE AND RETURNED HOME. AFTER MY DAUGHTER'S ARRIVAL, I WENT NEXT DOOR AND TALKED TO THE LADY OF THE HOUSE WHO INFORMED ME THAT SHE HAD OTHER FRIENDS LIVING IN THE SAME NEIGHBORHOOD WHO HAD RECEIVED SIMILAR CALLS."

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2. ON JULY 7, 1976, LCDR. BESCHTA RELATED THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION

TO THE RSO: "APPROXIMATELY MAY 27, 1976, A WORKMAN CAME TO THE FRONT GATE OF MY HOUSE AND TOLD THE MAID THAT THE CAPITAN OR COMANDANTE OF THE HOUSE HAD ASKED HIM TO DO SOME WORK INSIDE OF THE HOUSE. WHEN THE MAID ASKED HIM "WHAT WORK", HE SAID "JUST SOME WORK IN THE HOUSE". ACCORDING TO THE MAID, THE VISITOR WAS BETWEEN 35 AND 40 YEARS OF AGE, DRESSED LIKE A COMMON LABORER AND HAD A PAPER BAG IN HIS HAND THAT SHE PRESUMED CONTAINED TOOLS OF SOME SORT. AS NEITHER I NOR MY WIFE HAD INDICATED TO HERE THAT A MAN WAS GOING TO COME TO THE HOUSE TO WORK, SHE TURNED HIM AWAY. TO MY KNOWLEDGE, HE HAS NOT RETURNED."

3. EFFORTS ARE UNDERWAY TO HAVE BESCHTA'S HOME PHONE NUMBER CHANGED (NOT EASILY DONE IN CHILE). DAO IS REQUESTING FUNDING FROM DIA TO HIRE CONTRACT GUARDS FOR BESCHTA'S RESIDENCE. DESPITE CLAIMS (VALID) THAT THEY ARE 1500 MEN SHORT, CARABINEROS HAVE AGREED TO POST STATIC GUARD POSITION AT BESCHTA'S RESIDENCE AS LONG AS POSSIBLE. ADDITIONALLY, A SPECIAL CARABINERO PATROL CAR WILL PATROL BESCHTA'S RESIDENCE INDEFINITELY.

4. ON JULY 7, 1976, CONTRACT GUARD ASSIGNED TO RESIDENCE OF CAPT. SWITZER USN, DAO, REPORTED TO RSO THAT AT APPROXIMATELY 0300 ON JULY 4, 1976, OCCUPANTS (NUMBER UNKNOWN) OF A RED FIAT 125 FIRED THREE SHOTS FROM A PISTOL OR REVOLVER WHILE TRAVELING WEST ON JACQUES CAZOTTE ST., APPROXIMATELY SIXTY METERS FROM SWITZER'S RESIDENCE. GUARD WAS UNABLE TO OBTAIN TAG NUMBER. ROUNDS DID NOT STRIKE SWITZER'S RESIDENCE. GUARD STATED THAT CAPT. SWITZER ARRIVED AT HIS RESIDENCE IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE INCIDENT AND THAT HE (GUARD) ASKED CAPT. SWITZER IF HE HAD HEARD THE SHOTS. CAPT. SWITZER RESPONDED THAT HE DID NOT HEAR THE SHOTS AND INSTRUCTED THE GUARD TO REPORT THE INCIDENT TO THE GUARD CONTRACTOR.

5. INCIDENT PARTICULARLY NOTEWORTHY FOR THE FOLLOWING REASONS:
A) SIMILARITY TO INCIDENT AT AMBASSADOR'S RESIDENCE MAY 1, 1976 (REPORTED SANTIAGO 4034); B) HIGHLY UNLIKELY THAT "PRANKSTERS" OR "THRILL SEEKERS" WOULD ENGAGE IN THIS TYPE OF ACTIVITY, GIVEN PRESENT CONDITIONS IN CHILE.

6. INCIDENT WAS REPORTED TO CARABINEROS AND THEY HAVE STEPPED UP MOBILE PATROL IN CAPT. SWITZER'S NEIGHBORHOOD. SPECIAL PATROL MENTIONED IN 3 ABOVE WILL ALSO BEGIN COVERAGE OF CAPT. SWITZER'S LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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RESIDENCE.
POPPER

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Authority: CunninFX
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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